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Windows Phone 8.1 (LUMIA)

Community Group

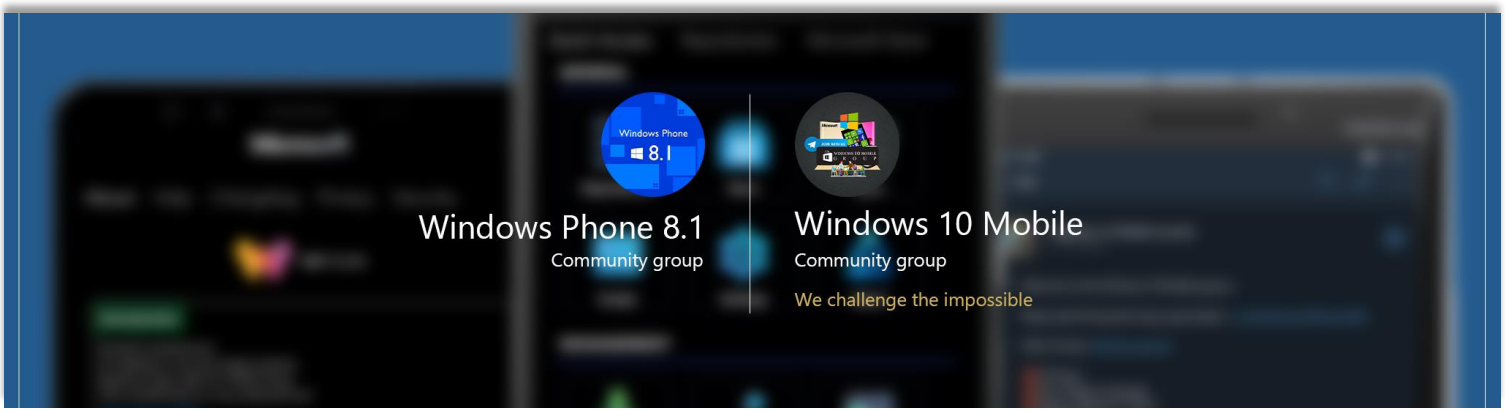
HOW TO

JAILBREAK

WINDOWS PHONE 8.1

Requirements

- A Windows PC (Recommended: Windows 8 OR higher | Minimum: Windows 7 SP1)
- Windows Phone 8.1 LUMIA Device



W10M Group YouTube Channel

YOUTUBE

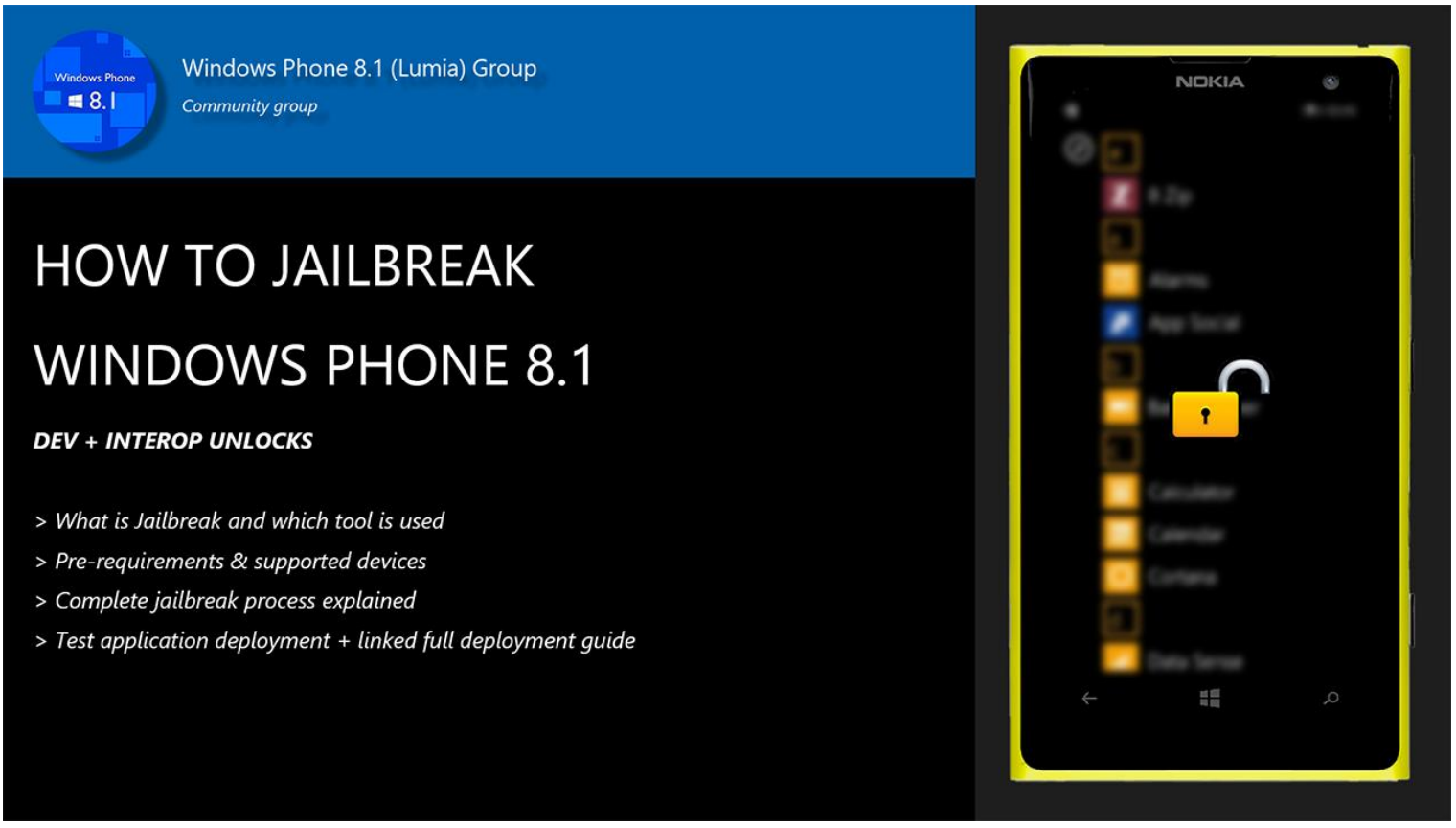
Apart from these documented Guides, we have started the roll up of Video Versions of each guide in our YouTube Channel.

Don't forget to **like** and **subscribe**!

How to Jailbreak Windows Phone 8.1 LUMIA Devices

YOUTUBE

If you are comfortable with video guidance more than the documented one, then you can follow this video guide.



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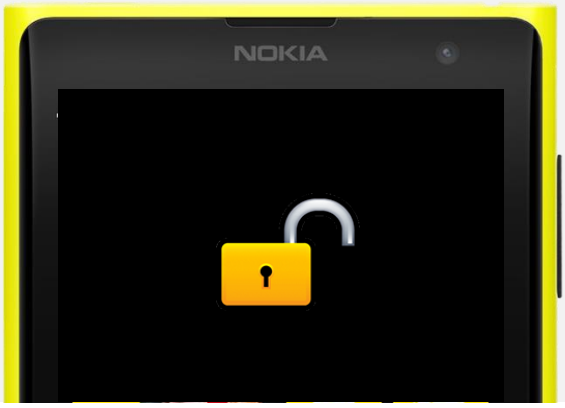
WINDOWS PHONE 8.1

STANDARD METHOD



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Introduction

What is Jailbreak?

In a nut shell, Jailbreak means un-offically altering the device to allow application sideloading in to the device other than using Microsoft Store.

Which tool is used jailbreak?

Xapload Unlocker by **Fadil Fadz**.

Successor to the previosu Dev + Interop Unlocker, this new tool (v.2.0.0) does everything the old tool does but even **better**!

Why you need to jailbreak?

After the store shutdown in the end of 2019, Windows Phone 8.1 lost all the official ways to sideload applications to the device.

The Windows Phone Developer Registration which was part of the SDK 8.1 was also closed around the store shutdown.

So, all in all, you are stuck with the apps that comes by default with the OS, nothing more!

Which is why Jailbreak was created so that **you can deploy unlimited amount of applications once done**.

Requirements & Supported Devices?

The devcie must have the ability to access Mass Storage Mode one way or another.

The usual method to get Mass Storage Mode to enable is to Unlock Bootloader of your WP8.1 LUMIA.

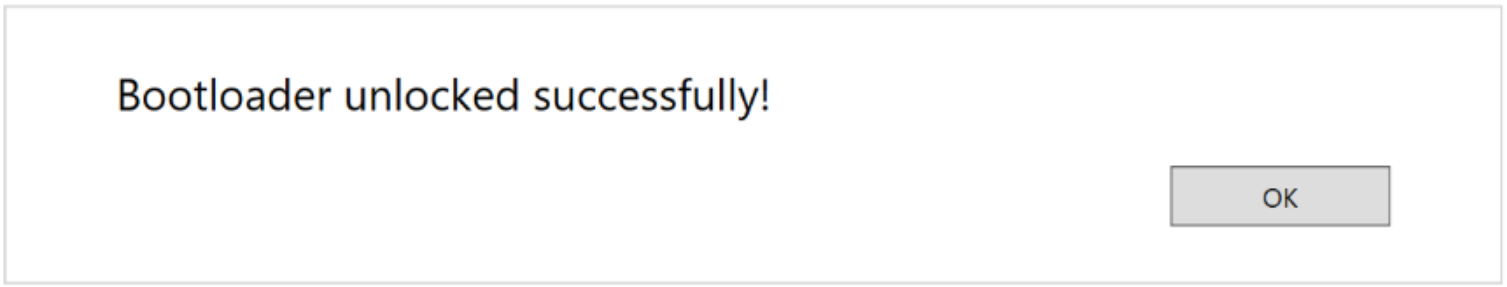
So, if you don’t have Mass Storage Mode, then Bootloader Unlock is required!

P.S. This usual Jailbreak method isn’t supported for Lumia 535 & Lumia 810 since their bootloader cannot be unlocked in usual ways.

PRE-REQUIREMENT: Bootloader unlock

In order to use this guide, you will need Mass Storage mode which is usually gained by unlocking the device bootloader.

You can use our bootloader unlock guides to get yours unlocked in case if it isn't.



SPEC-A BOOTLAODER UNLOCK

DOCUMENTED VERSION: How to unlock SPEC-A Bootloader Lumia devices.

W.U.T MEGA

SPEC-B BOOTLAODER UNLOCK

DOCUMENTED VERSION: How to unlock SPEC-B Bootloader Lumia devices.

W.U.T MEGA

VIDEO VERSION: How to unlock SPEC-B Bootloader Lumia devices.

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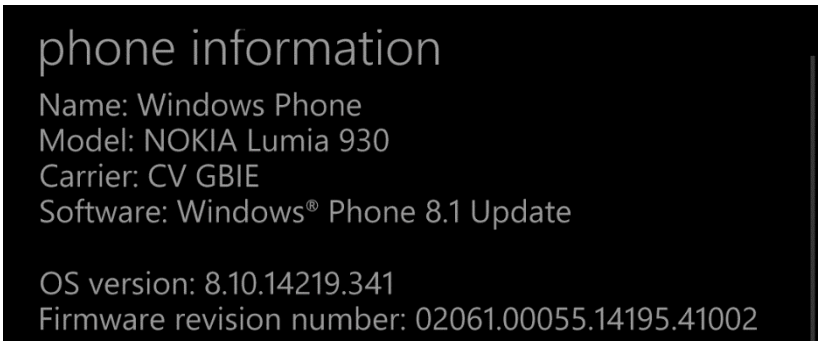
RECOMMENDATION: GDR1 / GDR2 Update

If your Windows Phone 8.1 device isn't running at least **8.10.14219.341** Build, then you should update the device to at least to that build before Jailbreaking.

You can check the OS verison you are running by going to "*Settings → About → More info*"



Why you need to update?

Without that minimum build, your device may not support the latest Windows Phone 8.1 packages so you will get issues once you start to deploy applications after the jailbreak.

GDR1 UPDATE GUIDES

DOCUMENTED VERSION: How to Update any device to Windows Phone 8.1 Update (GDR1)

W.U.T MEGA

VIDEO VERSION: Update any device to Windows Phone 8.1 Update (GDR1)

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GDR2 UPDATE GUIDES

DOCUMENTED VERSION: How to Update any device to Windows Phone 8.1 Update 2 (GDR2)

W.U.T MEGA

VIDEO VERSION: Update any device to Windows Phone 8.1 Update 2 (GDR2)

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Preparations

Download Xapload Unlocker

GITHUB | W.U.T | MEGA

(***TIP:*** *The old Dev + Interop Unlocker verisons are now deprecated and is not focused in guide*)

Download Windows Phone Internals

(*Recommended: WPI 2.9.2 OR higher*)

GITHUB | W.U.T | MEGA

TIP: *You should already have it since it's required for Bootloader Unlock*

Jailbreak Windows Phone 8.1

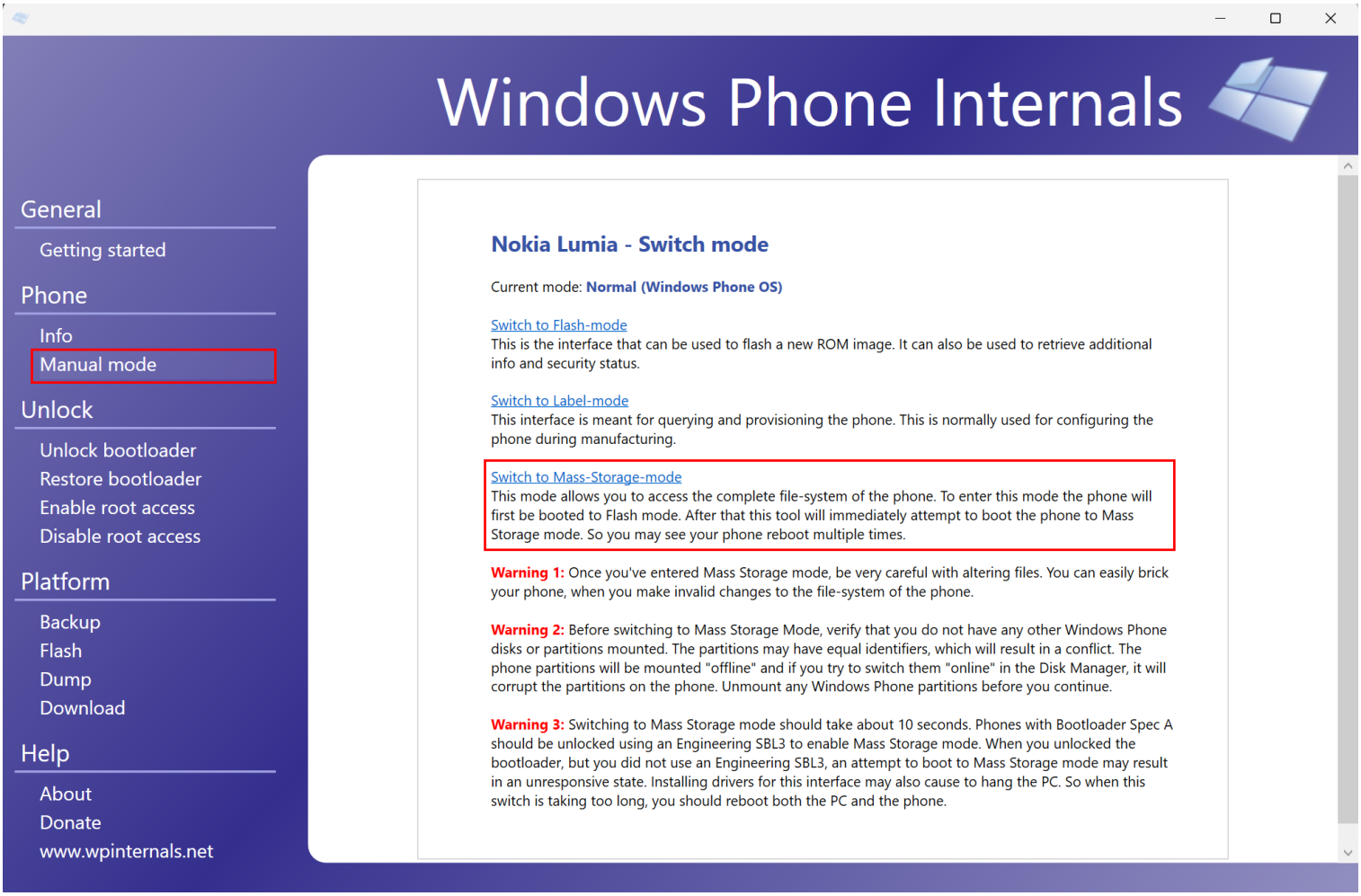
> Connect your Phone to PC via a USB Connection.

> Open Windows Phone Internals & boot your device to Mass Storage Mode

(Manual mode → Mass Storage Mode)

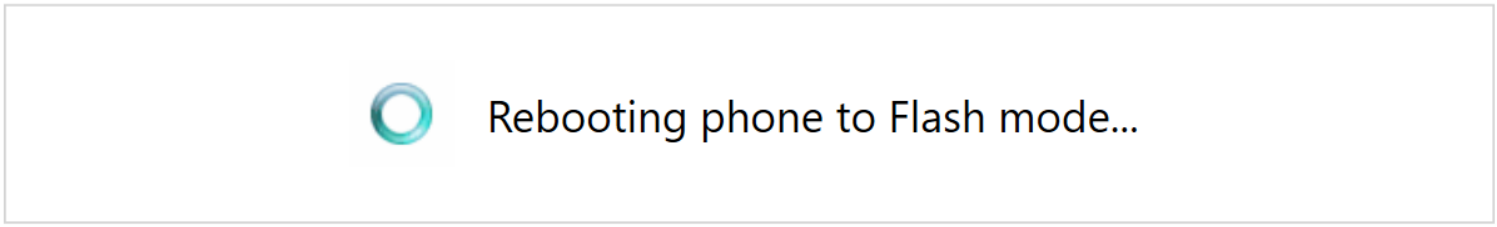
HINT

Your phone needs to have the bootloader unlocked in order to boot into Mass Storage Mode via WPI.



Your phone will automatically reboot now.

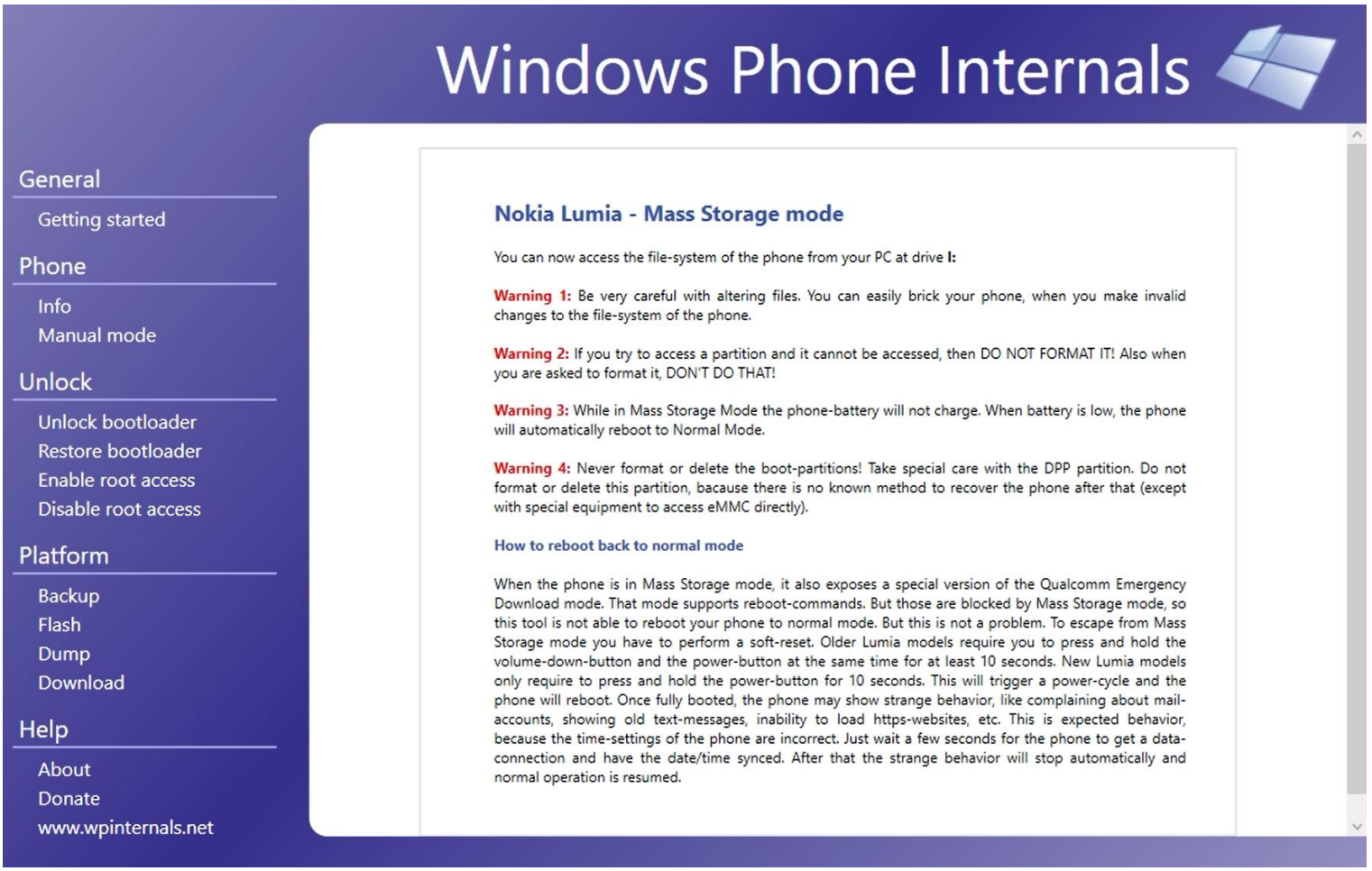
> First it will say **"Rebooting to Flash Mode"**



> Then it will boot to Mass Storage Mode (There may be two reboots before booting to Mass Storage Mode)

Once the phone boots to Mass Storage Mode:

A new disk will be recognized as "**MainOS**" and WPI will change screen to the below page;

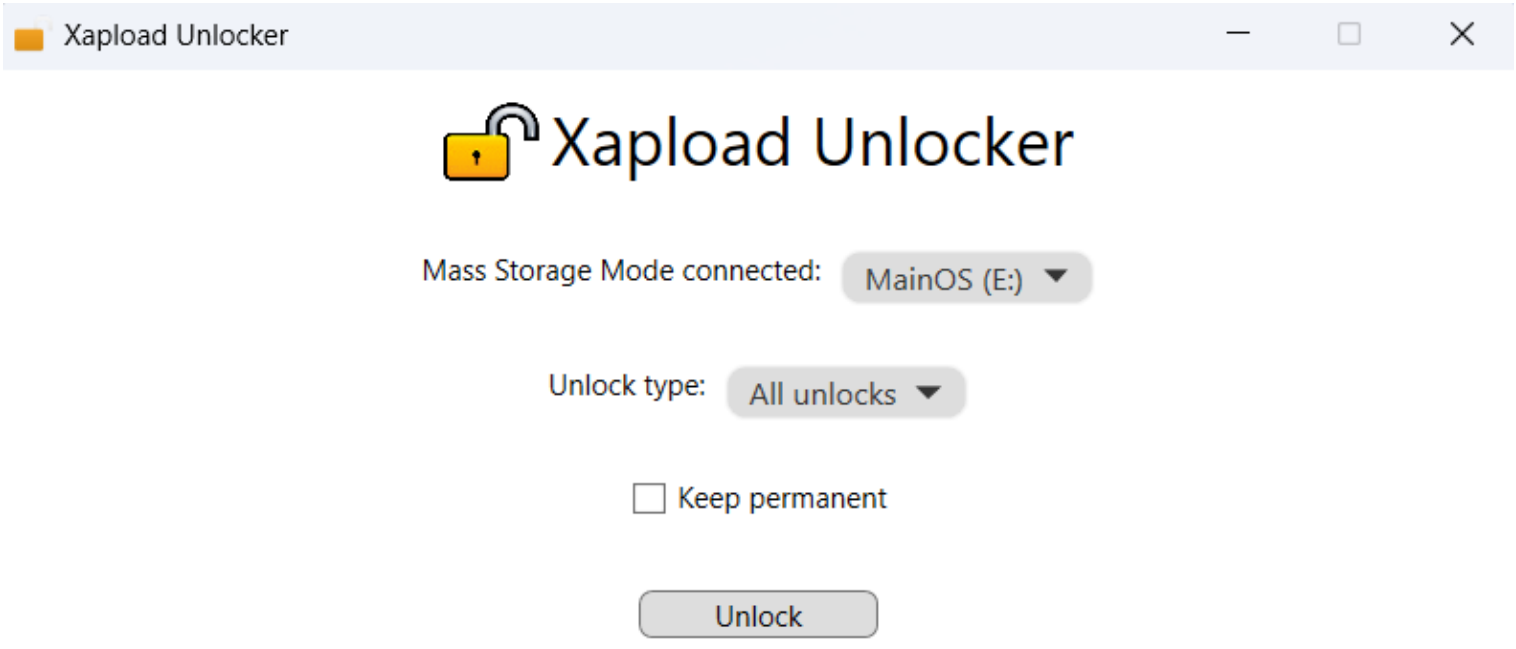


The phone display will turn to black and will not display anything as if it's turned off, but it's normal when in Mass Storage Mode.

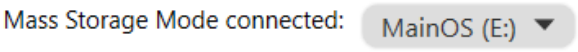
> Now that we got it in Mass Storage Mode, minimize / close Windows Phone Internals.

Open Xapload Unlocker.

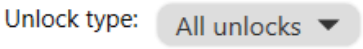
(*If you are getting a malicious warning for the unlocker, then check this for clarification*)



The Unlocker will automatically detect the **MainOS partition** of your device.

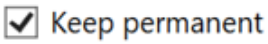


Keep the **Unlock type** to **All Unlocks**.



Keep permanent checkbox is a user choice.

(**RECOMMENDATION**: Check the box)



What is it?

If you **check Keep permanent checkbox and unlock the device**, the **Unlock status will not go away even if you did a hard reset**.

But if **you didn't check it and unlock**, the **unlock status will become invalid if you do a hard reset**.

Once you sorted everything out with the options, click the **Unlock** button.

After a second / two, it will change to **Unlocked** and *will be greyed out*.

That's it, **jailbreaking your device is now completed!**

> All left to do now is to escape from Mass Storage Mode.

You can simply do that by performing a **Soft-reset**.

(***Soft reset:*** *Hold Volume Down + Power until the device vibrates*)

How to reboot back to normal mode

When the phone is in Mass Storage mode, it also exposes a special version of the Qualcomm Emergency Download mode. That mode supports reboot-commands. But those are blocked by Mass Storage mode, so this tool is not able to reboot your phone to normal mode. But this is not a problem. To escape from Mass Storage mode you have to perform a soft-reset. Older Lumia models require you to press and hold the volume-down-button and the power-button at the same time for at least 10 seconds. New Lumia models only require to press and hold the power-button for 10 seconds. This will trigger a power-cycle and the phone will reboot. Once fully booted, the phone may show strange behavior, like complaining about mail-accounts, showing old text-messages, inability to load https-websites, etc. This is expected behavior, because the time-settings of the phone are incorrect. Just wait a few seconds for the phone to get a data-connection and have the date/time synced. After that the strange behavior will stop automatically and normal operation is resumed.

Once your device boots to Windows Phone 8.1, **you can start deploying apps to your device!**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q. Xapload Unlocker is **flagged as malicious by my virus guard**, is it safe to use?

A. I can assure you that **it's not malicious and is safe to use**.

WHY: **THE REPORT IS FALSE POSITIVE AND THE TOOL IS OPEN SOURCE SO YOU CAN CHECK IT ANYTIME!**

REASON:

Xapload Unlocker does registry mount & edits to the MainOS partition so anything that mess with registry is dangerous, the virus guards may report the tool as un-safe to use.

WORKAROUND:

White-list the tool in your virus guard **OR** *temporary disable Virus guard till the jailbreak is finished.*

Q. Can I re-lock the bootloader after I used Xapload Unlocker?

A. YES, **you can safely re-lock the bootloader** and the Unlock will persist it.

Q. Can I used Xapload Unlocker to unlock Windows 10 Mobile too?

A. YES, BUT: **The tool is intended to use only in Windows Phone 8.1 for some specific reasons.**

REASONS:

> Developer Unlock is built-into Windows 10 Mobile as a mode to turn on (Settings → Update & Security → For Developers)

> Interop Unlock also is a lot easier to enable in Windows 10 Mobile and does not need Bootloader Unlock.

[OPTIONAL] WPI Root access

What is Root Access?

Root access is a set of Unlocks which ultimately jailbreak the device + give read & Write access to restricted paths in System.

> ### Root Access
>
> Root Access is a set of hacks that unleashes the power of your Windows Phone:
>
> - Disable SecureBoot at OS loader and at OS runtime level
> - Disable all ACL, Capability and Privileges checks
> - Allow threads to escape from sandbox security
> - Allow .NET Console executables
> - Jailbreak (side-load homebrew apps, only for WP 8.0 and 8.1 as Windows 10 Mobile already allows side-loading through "developer mode")

Why is it listed as "OPTIONAL"?

Xapload Unlocker already enables Application deployment via Dev + Interop Unlocks so need of Root access regarding that.

Root access is supported only for a handful of Windows Phone 8.1 Builds unlike Xapload Unlocker which supports almost all.

> **Supported OS versions for Root Access**
>
> - 8.10.12393.890
> - 8.10.12397.895
> - 8.10.14219.341
> - 8.10.14226.359
> - 8.10.14234.375
> - 8.10.15116.125
> - 8.10.15148.160

Can I use Xapload Unlocker & then enable Root Access too?

Yes, you can do both & that will give you the ultimate experience with unrestricted System access through the phone itself.

How to enable Root Access?

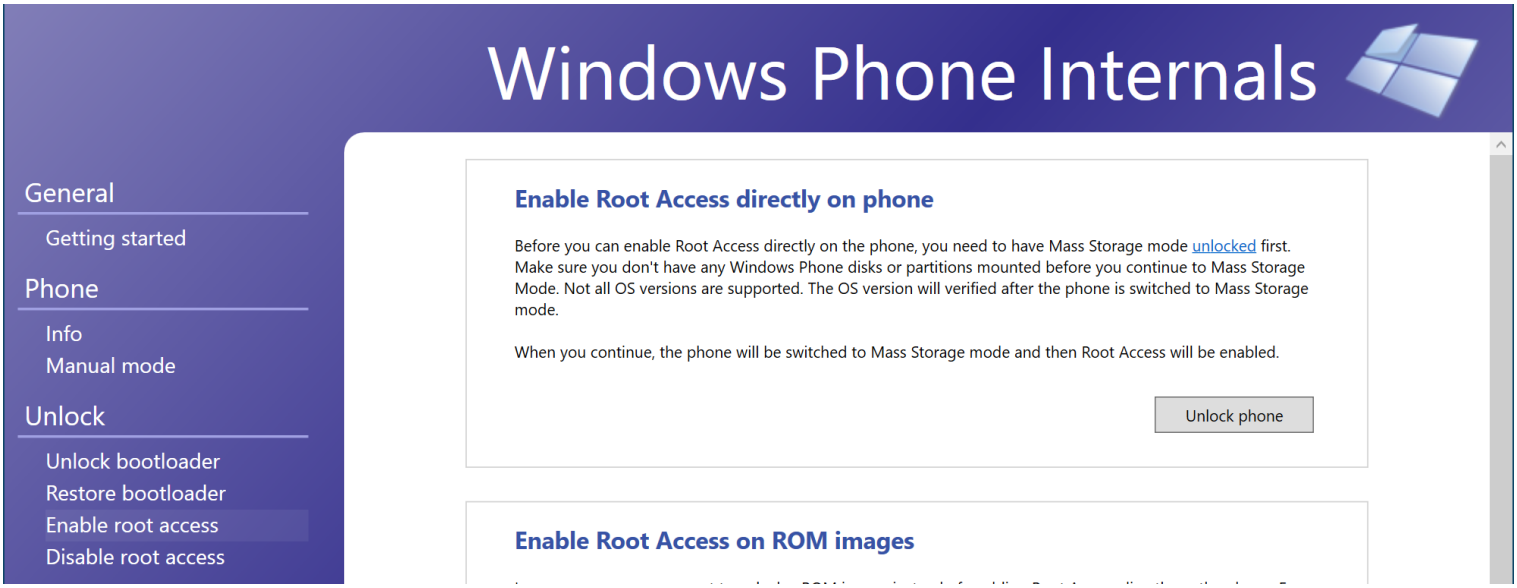
If you **have a supported build**, use "**Enable Root Access**" entry in WPI left menu to get it enabled.

The steps will be;

> Re/boot to Mass Storage Mode (Automatically or manually, doesn't matter)

> Use Enable Root access directly on phone option.

> Reboot out from Mass Storage Mode by doing a soft-reset



Can I re-lock the bootloader after enabling root?

NO, if **you re-lock the bootloader**, the **Root Access will get disabled along with it** which is one another reason why Xapload Unlocker is recommended over Root Access.

Is it ok to keep Root Access enabled all the time?

NO, why;

> Root Access allows a high degree of tweaking on your phone. But be aware that it also makes your phone vulnerable to badly written software and malware! If you unlocked Mass Storage mode, then this tool will allow you to enable or disable Root Access directly on your phone. To be safe, you can enable Root Access, then make necessary changes and tweaks to your phone and then disable Root Access afterwards.

[REFERENCE] Deploy applications to Windows Phone 8.1

Now that your device is jailbroken, you can use our application deployment guide to get your device loaded up!

DOCUMENTED VERSION: How to deploy applications to Windows Phone 8.1 (With-PC)

W.U.T MEGA

VIDEO VERSION: How to deploy applications to Windows Phone 8.1 (With-PC)

YOUTUBE

DOCUMENTED VERSION: How to sideload applications to Windows Phone 8.1 (Without-PC)

W.U.T MEGA

VIDEO VERSION: How to sideload applications to Windows Phone 8.1 (Without-PC)

YOUTUBE

End notes

- You can re-lock the device bootloader if you want after jailbreaking the device.
  Though, you should not re-lock if you are planning to sideload applications without using a PC, refer to these guides for more info.

Credits

- ✓ Fadil Fadz for Xapload Unlocker
- ✓ ReneLergner, Gustave Monce & all the other contributors of WPI

That is all for this guide!

THANK YOU!!

Lasitha Samarasinghe